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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 10. Development support and management services

1. At its 24th meeting, on 27 June 1997, the Committee considered section 10, Development support and management services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed their support for the activities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services and emphasized the importance they attached in particular to technical cooperation activities. Others stressed the importance of the assistance provided by the Department to the countries with economies in transition, in particular in the areas of technology and market development, development of enterprise, international cooperation in tax matters and public administration, and considered that the capacity to provide such assistance should not be reduced as a result of the ongoing restructuring of the Department.

3. A number of delegations expressed full agreement with the section, including the proposed reductions of resources. Many other delegations expressed concern at the proposed reductions of resources and the negative impact that might have on the full implementation of the programme of work.

4. Some delegations reiterated their long-standing concern regarding the possible duplication of activities between the Department and the United Nations Development Programme, and expressed the view that the ongoing restructuring should bring a solution to the problem.

5. One delegation requested clarification on the work of the Committee on Natural Resources; another stated that the Committee had limited usefulness and that the issues on its agenda could be dealt with by other bodies, and the resources reduced accordingly.

6. One delegation proposed that:

(a) In paragraph 10.29, the last sentence be redrafted in line with paragraph 8.7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as follows: "The subprogramme also aims at cooperating, at the request of interested Governments, and according to their priorities, in the definition of needs of reconstruction once a conflict is over";

(b) In paragraph 10.30, the words "at their request and according to their priorities" be inserted after the word "implement";

(c) In paragraph 10.31, the last sentence be redrafted in accordance with paragraph 8.1 of programme 8 of the medium-term plan, which stressed that the general purpose of the programme was to support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 10, Development support and management services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction.